

for failure to pay the issue fee after the expiration of the time period following the Notice of Allowance for claims 1-22, mailed on February 1, 2000. Thus, the Examiner properly did not enter the Applicants' amendments of April 4, 2000.

Applicants successfully revived the instant application, submitted the issue fee, and believed that the amendments of April 4, 2000 were dead because of the Examiner's refusal to enter the amendments. Concurrent with the filing of the petition to revive, the Applicants filed a continuation application for the subject matter of claims 23-107 in the April 4, 2000 amendment (serial no. 09/588, 958 filed on June 7, 2000). Recently, the April 4, 2000 amendment was reconsidered and claims 23-107 entered, but disapproved because the claims 23-107 would require further examination. Thus, the Applicants and the Examiner agreed to cancel claims 23-107 of the instant application so that the instant application may issue to patent. Therefore, it is clear that claims 23-107 are not canceled to overcome prior art, but are canceled because the subject matter of claims 23-107 are claimed in a pending continuation application.

Furthermore, Applicants believe that the issue fee for the instant application has been paid in full. Payment of the issue fee for the instant application was submitted on June 12, 2000, as a part of the required full and complete response necessary for a petition to revive.

CONCLUSION

Applicants thank the Examiner for her suggestions for canceling claims 23-107 in the instant application by an Examiner's amendment and thank the Examiner for her assistance in bringing prosecution of this application to a close. Applicants are looking forward to receiving the issued patent.

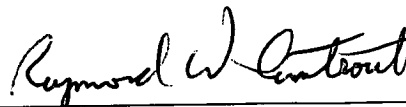
Respectfully Submitted,

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